

FIRST AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

U.S. Serial No.: 10/712,419

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

placing a sample in contact with a device, wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte and wherein binding between the immobilized binding partner and a suspected analyte causes formation of a detectable signal and detection of the signal indicates the presence of a suspected analyte in the sample;

separating at least part of the portion containing the bound analyte from at least part of the device; and

analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte to provide information regarding the suspected analyte.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the device is a lateral flow device.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information identifies the suspected analyte.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information describes one or more characteristics of the suspected analyte.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

placing the portion containing the bound analyte in conditions effective to cause the quantity of the suspected analyte to increase; and

separating at least part of the suspected analyte from the portion containing the bound analyte after increase in the quantity of the suspected analyte.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the analyte is an organism and analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte comprises placing the portion containing the bound analyte on or in a selective growth medium in which the analyte will proliferate if present.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises storing the device without further processing for up to five days after placing the sample in contact with the device and before separating the portion containing the bound analyte from at least part of the device.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating or concentrating a substance comprising the method of ~~Claims~~ claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A kit for performing the method of ~~Claims~~ claim 1, comprising a device wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte.

10. (Currently Amended) A device wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte, wherein the device comprises structural features that facilitate separation of the portion containing the bound analyte or a part of the portion containing the bound analyte from at least part of the device.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a food or soil contaminant.

12. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a microorganism.

13. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a pathogen